

**To:** Mylott, Richard[Mylott.Richard@epa.gov]  
**From:** Morning Consult  
**Sent:** Wed 3/1/2017 1:09:13 PM  
**Subject:** Morning Consult Energy: White House Denies Executive Order on Biofuels

By Jack Fitzpatrick

*Note to subscribers: We've just debuted Morning Consult Brand Intelligence - a new technology platform that harnesses Morning Consult's market-leading survey research capabilities to track public perception of more than 500 consumer-facing brands. Check it out here.*

## Washington Brief

- The White House denied that an executive order was in the works to alter the country's biofuels program, after the Renewable Fuels Association released a statement saying it had been informed there would be an action moving the point of obligation under the Renewable Fuel Standard. (Argus Media)
- The Senate will vote this morning on Rep. Ryan Zinke's (R-Mont.) nomination to lead the Department of the Interior. (The Associated Press)
- President Donald Trump signed an executive order calling for the review of the Waters of the U.S. rule that broadly defined the Environmental Protection Agency's and Army Corps of Engineers' regulatory authority over waterways. (NPR)

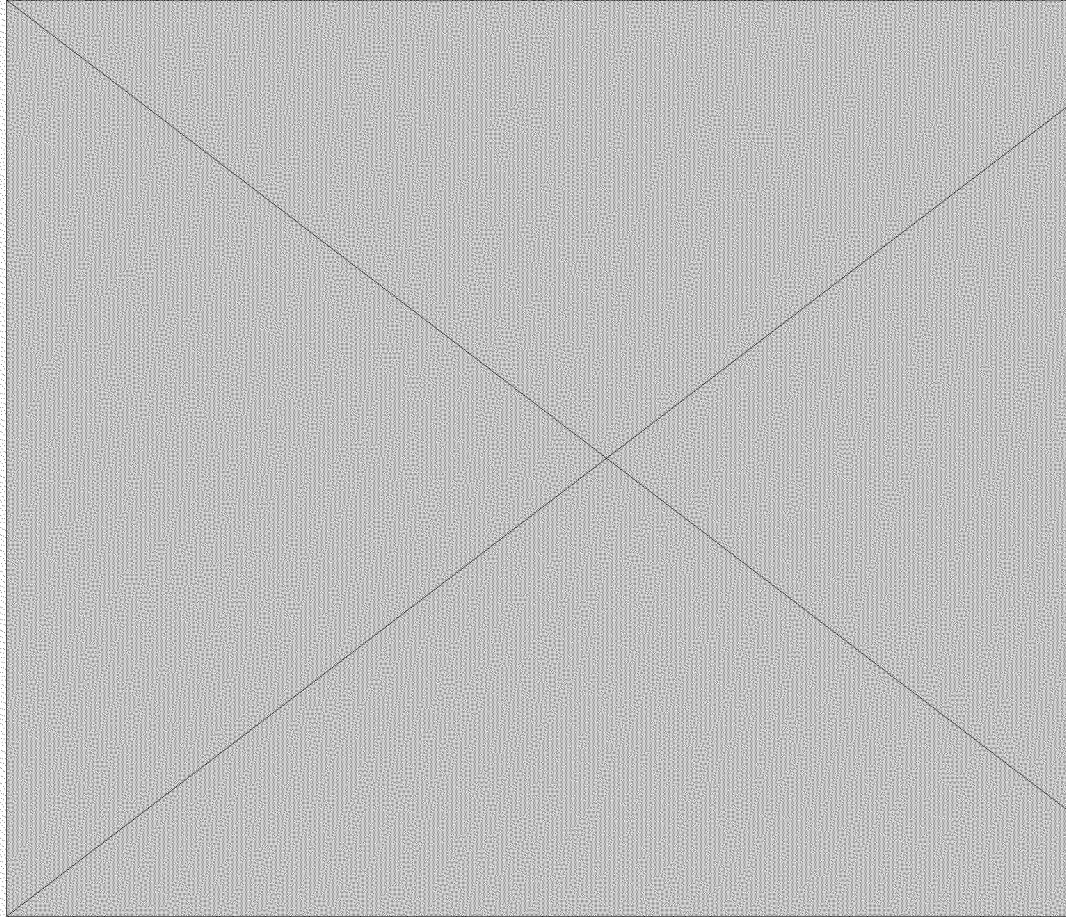
## Business Brief

- Carl Icahn's stake in a Texas refiner grew by up to \$126 million after he helped reach a deal on U.S. renewable fuels policy. (Bloomberg News)
- TransCanada Corp, the company behind the Keystone XL pipeline, suspended its \$15 billion lawsuit under the North American Free Trade Agreement over the Obama administration's rejection of the pipeline. (The Canadian Press)
- OPEC countries have cut oil output by 1.098 million barrels per day of the

pledged 1.164 million barrels per day, or 94 percent of their goal under a recent deal, according to a Reuters survey. [\(Reuters\)](#)

## Chart Review

Japan accelerates wind power development as govt support pays off:  
study  
Reuters



## Events Calendar (All Times Local)

### Wednesday

<u>ARPA-E Energy Innovation Summit</u>	9 a.m.
<u>House Natural Resources subcommittee hearing on western water and power infrastructure</u>	10 a.m.
<u>Senate EPW hearing on flood control infrastructure</u>	10:30 a.m.
<u>USGS to release study on earthquakes</u>	1 p.m.

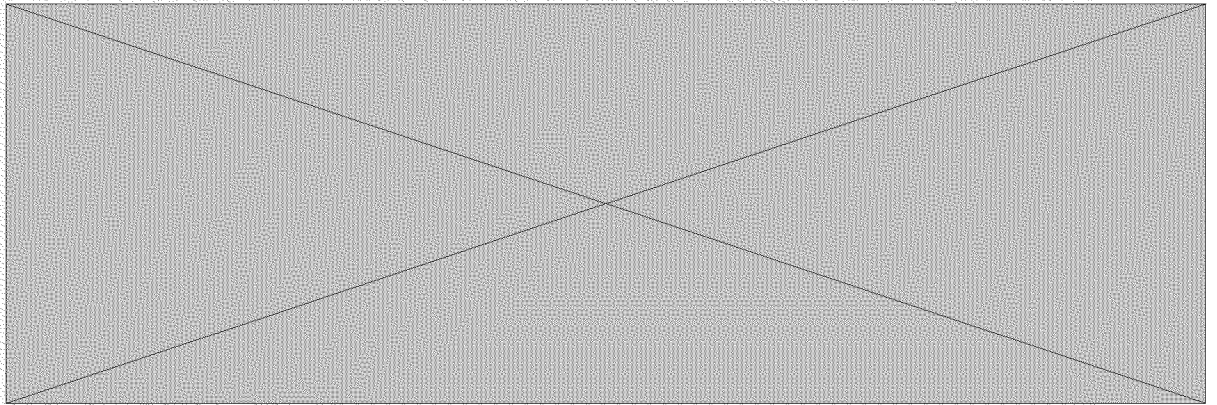
## **Thursday**

Gore, others speak at Climate Reality Leadership Corps Training in Denver

10  
a.m.

## **Friday**

No events scheduled



## **General**

### Trump Aims To 'Eliminate' Clean Water Rule

Merrit Kennedy, NPR News

The Trump administration is moving to roll back an environmental rule intended to define which small bodies of water are subject to federal authority under the Clean Water Act. President Trump signed documents Tuesday directing the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to review the Obama administration's "Waters of the United States" rule.

### Zinke heads toward confirmation as Interior secretary

Matthew Daly, The Associated Press

Montana Rep. Ryan Zinke is headed toward confirmation as President Donald Trump's Interior secretary, responsible for more than 400 million acres of public land, mostly in the West. The Republican-controlled Senate has scheduled a vote on the nomination Wednesday morning.

### EPA chief Pruitt's ex-office given more time on emails

Sean Murphy, The Associated Press

The chief justice of Oklahoma's Supreme Court on Tuesday gave the state's

new attorney general more time to produce thousands of documents related to the relationship that new Environmental Protection Agency leader Scott Pruitt had with energy companies. Chief Justice Douglas Combs granted Attorney General Mike Hunter's request for an emergency stay after attorneys for Hunter's office argued a lower court's Friday deadline was not enough time to produce all the documents.

### **Flint residents must start paying for water they still can't drink without a filter**

**Brady Dennis, The Washington Post**

Residents in Flint, Mich., are about to start paying the full cost of their water again, even though what's flowing from their taps has yet to be declared safe to drink without an approved filter. On Wednesday, state officials will end a program that has helped pay residents' bills since a series of ill-fated decisions by state-appointed emergency managers left the city's water system contaminated with lead.

### **In arid Southwest, cities expand efforts to conserve less water**

**Zack Colman, Christian Science Monitor**

Across the West, cities may still have a long way to go in adapting to hotter, and often drier, climate realities. But progress is under way with conservation and water reuse on the rise.

### **Senate GOP probe California dam break**

**John Siciliano, Washington Examiner**

The Senate's top environment committee will hold a hearing later this week on a major California dam break that forced nearly 200,000 people to flee their homes earlier this month. The recent events at the Oroville dam in California, together with ice jam flooding on other major waterways and other flooding events, has forced the Environment and Public Works Committee to take up the status of U.S. dam, levee and other flood control infrastructure, a committee aide said Monday.

### **Focus Turns to Fed as Dollar Strengthens, Bonds Drop**

**Robert Brand, Bloomberg News**

Investors moved on from President Donald Trump's address to Congress, shifting their focus to the timing of a U.S. rate increase as the dollar strengthened, stocks advanced and bonds fell. Robust factory data from China spurred gains in metal prices.



## Oil and Natural Gas

**Icahn's \$126 Million Gain on Biofuels Deal Prompts Criticism**  
Jennifer A Dlouhy et al., Bloomberg

Carl Icahn's stake in a Texas refiner grew by as much as \$126 million Tuesday after the billionaire investor and special adviser to President Donald Trump helped broker a proposal to alter U.S. biofuels policy. Icahn Enterprises LP holds an 82 percent stake in refiner CVR Energy Inc., which gained as much as 7.7 percent on news of a proposed deal to change the way the renewable fuels program operates.

**OPEC compliance with oil curbs hits 94 percent in February: Reuters survey**  
Alex Lawler and Rania El Gamal, Reuters

OPEC has cut its oil output for a second month in February, a Reuters survey found on Tuesday, allowing the exporter group to boost already strong compliance with agreed supply curbs on the back of a steep reduction by Saudi Arabia. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries is cutting its output by about 1.2 million barrels per day (bpd) from Jan. 1 - the first such deal since 2008 to get rid of a glut.

## Utilities and Infrastructure

**TransCanada suspends \$15-billion lawsuit over Keystone XL pipeline**  
The Canadian Press

TransCanada Corp. has suspended a \$15-billion lawsuit against the United States centring on its Keystone XL pipeline after U.S. President Donald Trump indicated that he will likely approve the project. The company filed the challenge under the North American Free Trade Agreement last year, alleging the U.S. government failed in its commitment to protect Canadian investors and ensure the company was treated in accordance with international law.

**Georgia bill would prevent PSOs from starting utility IRPs**  
Robert Walton, UtilityDive

A Republican lawmaker in Georgia has introduced a bill that would restrict

the state's utility regulators from making changes to energy resource decisions in the integrated resource plans filed by power companies every three years. House Bill 479, proposed by Rep. Don Parsons (R), has alarmed solar advocates who say it will likely lead to less renewable energy on the system.

### Homeowners being sued over proposed 800-mile pipeline Jennifer Eberbach, Detroit Free Press

The stakes along a neighbor's horse farm, about 100 feet from Jerry and Karen Jones' Putnam Township home, mark where the natural gas pipeline will run. Karen Jones said the family will likely move away because of the pipeline.

## Renewables

### Japan accelerates wind power installation as govt support pays off: study Osamu Tsukimori, Reuters

With a month to go this fiscal year, Japan's installation of new wind power capacity in 2016-17 is set to come in almost double that of the previous 12 months, propelled by higher tariffs guaranteed by Tokyo and a rising number of offshore wind farms. Japan is set to add 300 megawatts of wind capacity - enough to power more than 100,000 average homes - in the 12 months through March, Japan's Wind Power Association said in a study released late last month.

### EU Rejects Appeal to Scrap Tariffs on Chinese Solar Products Natalia Drozdiak and Laurence H. White, The Wall Street Journal

A top European Union court on Tuesday rejected an appeal by Chinese solar panel companies to scrap anti-dumping and antisubsidy measures imposed by European Union member states in 2013 on imports of solar panels and essential components.

### Oroville Dam's power plant may be decommissioned by Thursday Ryan Sabalow, Sacramento Bee

After flows down Oroville Dam's fractured spillway were dialed back to nothing on Monday afternoon, heavy equipment operators worked

throughout the night on the massive debris pile at the bottom of the badly damaged concrete structure. Those efforts to open up the channel below, which would allow engineers to start firing up the dam's critical power plant, already appear to be paying off, said Nancy Vogel, a spokeswoman for the California Natural Resources Agency.

**Oregon set to get 56 megawatt solar power plant, expected to be state's largest**  
**Anmar Francoul, CNBC**

Construction has commenced on a 56 megawatt (MW) solar plant in Oregon. The Gala Solar Power Plant, in Crook County, is expected to be the largest operating facility in the state, sustainable energy company SunPower said in a statement on Monday.

## **Coal**

**NKorea official in Beijing after ban on coal imports**  
**The Associated Press**

A senior North Korean diplomat arrived in Beijing on Tuesday for talks following China's ban on coal imports from its neighbor and the killing of the exiled half brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Vice Foreign Minister Ri Kil Song will hold talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on "issues of common concern," Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said at a daily news briefing.

**Hard choices ahead as officials prepare closure of Navajo power plant**  
**Arren Kimbel Sannit, Cronkite**

Despite pledges to look for alternatives, closing the Navajo Generating Station in Page could devastate the local economy, where hundreds of jobs rely on the plant and affiliated coal mine and where experts see few, if any, workable solutions. To replace the 800 jobs that would be lost at the plant and the mine, planners and policymakers must overcome a lack of economic diversity in the remote region, as well as low demand for the relatively costly power the plant produces. Proposals to replace the plant with sustainable energy are costly in themselves and will not go far toward replacing lost jobs.



## Nuclear

UK nuclear power stations 'could be forced to close' after Brexit  
Adam Vaughan, The Guardian

Nuclear power stations would be forced to shut down if a new measures are not in place when Britain quits a European atomic power treaty in 2019, an expert has warned. Rupert Cowen, a senior nuclear energy lawyer at Prospect Law, told MPs on Tuesday that leaving the Euratom treaty as the government has promised could see trade in nuclear fuel grind to a halt.

Lawmakers Review Plan To Close Indian Point Nuclear Plant  
CBS New York/The Associated Press

Some New York lawmakers are demanding more information about plans to close Indian Point nuclear plant by 2021. Tuesday's legislative hearing will focus on the environmental and health implications of shuttering the facility, which sits 30 miles north of the city.

## Climate

Shell's 1991 warning: climate change 'at faster rate than at any time since end of ice age'  
Damian Carrington and Jelle Van Noort, The Guardian

Climate change "at a rate faster than at any time since the end of the ice age - change too fast perhaps for life to adapt, without severe dislocation". That was the startling warning issued by the oil giant Shell more than a quarter of a century ago.

Marshall Islands become first country to ratify global HFC treaty  
Karl Mathiesen, Climate Home

The Pacific atolls of the Marshall Islands became the first country to ratify a global agreement to slash use of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). The Kigali amendment to the Montreal Protocol was struck last year and aims to reduce the use of HFCs by 80% over the next 30 years.

Members of Congress met to discuss costs of climate change. They ended up debating its



Chelsea Harvey, The Wash

A hearing held Tuesday by several House subcommittees was meant to be an examination of the methods used to calculate an oft-contested metric known as the social cost of carbon, a way of quantifying the costs - environmental, health-related or otherwise - of emitting an additional ton of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Yet by its close, the conversation had disintegrated into yet another debate about the extent to which man-made climate change exists.

With Climate Change, California To See More Extreme Flooding  
NPR News

Californians are in shock that after five years of too little water, the problem now is too much. All eyes in California have been on Oroville Dam, where a broken spillway forced major evacuations.

## Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

Chairman Lamar Smith Drags Kevin Prestegard, Morning Co  
a Fight Over Alaska's Future

It may surprise many of you that Bristol Bay Native Corporation, an Alaska Native corporation with more than 10,000 shareholders, has a large presence in the heart of House Science, Space, and Technology Committee Chairman Lamar Smith's Texas district. BBNC owns multiple local subsidiaries that collectively employ nearly 270 people and perform a variety of services primarily for government entities in the San Antonio area.

A Texas Tornado For America's Powerayers  
Liam Denning, Bloomberg Ga

This is something the CEO of one of America's largest independent power producers, or IPPs, said on a results call on Tuesday morning: "I believe the IPP model is now obsolete and unable to create value over the long term." To understand why the CEO of NRG Energy Inc. wasn't exactly cheerleading for the IPP business, it pays to look at one of the markets where NRG operates - which also happens to be the biggest electricity market in the U.S.: Texas.

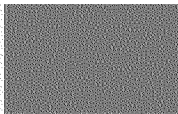
## Research Reports

The key role of forests in meeting climate targets requires science for credible mitigation

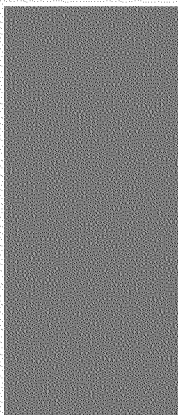
Giacomo Grassi et al., Nature Climate Change

Forest-based climate mitigation may occur through conserving and enhancing the carbon sink and through reducing greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation. Yet the inclusion of forests in international climate agreements has been complex, often considered a secondary mitigation option. In the context of the Paris Climate Agreement, countries submitted their (Intended) Nationally Determined Contributions ((I)NDCs), including climate mitigation targets.

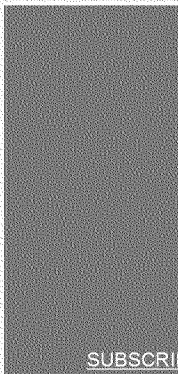
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